

Claims:

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1. A method of preparing a thermally printable sheet which comprises providing a substrate comprising a base sheet having at least one surface coated with a layer containing a pigment in solid porous particulate form, and, using a
10 printer, printing onto the coated surface of said substrate, a thermal ink which comprises a colour former, a colour developer and a sensitizer, characterised in that the sensitizer comprises dimethyl terephthalate, and that the ink also comprises at least one pigment.

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the colour former comprises 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, in which 3-dibutylamino-
20 6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran is the only colour former present.

4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, in which the colour developer is bisphenol A.

25 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, in which bisphenol A is the only colour developer present.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in which the ink is free of wax.

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7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in which the pigment in the ink is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate, and/or silica.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 1.5 μ , preferably less than 1.0 μ .

5 9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the ink also comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the pigment comprised in the layer coating the base
10 sheet is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate and/or silica.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, in which said layer also comprises at least one additional pigment.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 11, in which said additional pigment is a plastic pigment in the form of hollow spheres.

20 13. A thermally printable sheet which comprises a base sheet having at least one surface coated with a layer containing a pigment in solid porous particulate form, there being printed upon said coated surface, a thermal ink which comprises a colour former, a colour developer and a sensitizer,
25 characterised in that the sensitizer is dimethyl terephthalate, and that the ink also comprises at least one pigment.

14. A sheet as claimed in claim 13, in which the colour
30 former comprises 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran.

15. A sheet as claimed in claim 14, in which 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran is the only colour former present.

16. A sheet as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 15, in which the colour developer is bisphenol A.

17. A sheet as claimed in claim 16, in which bisphenol A is
5 the only colour developer present.

18. A sheet according to any one of claims 13 to 17, in which the ink is free of wax.

10 19. A sheet according to any one of claims 13 to 18, in which the pigment in the ink is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate, and/or silica.

20. A sheet according to any one of claims 13 to 19, in
15 which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 1.5 μ , preferably less than 1.0 μ .

21. A sheet according to any one of claims 13 to 20, in which the ink also comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

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22. A sheet as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 21, in which the pigment comprised in the layer coating the base sheet is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate and/or silica.

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23. A sheet as claimed in claim 22, in which said layer also comprises at least one additional pigment.

24. A sheet as claimed in claim 23, in which said additional
30 pigment is a plastic pigment in the form of hollow spheres.

25. The use of DMT in a thermal ink comprising a colour former and a colour developer, to reduce unwanted discolouration during storage of a thermally printable sheet product comprising a base sheet having at least one surface
5 coated with a layer containing a pigment in solid porous particulate form, said thermal ink being printed upon said coated surface.

26. The use of a combination of a thermal ink comprising
10 DMT, a colour former and a colour developer, and a surface coating comprising a pigment in solid porous particulate form, to reduce unwanted discolouration during storage of a thermally printable sheet product.